

MONTGOMERY COUNTY  
FIRE AND RESCUE COMMISSION

**MINUTES**

March 14, 2002

EXECUTIVE OFFICE BUILDING AUDITORIUM  
Rockville, Maryland

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Gordon A. Aoyagi, Chairman  
Fernando Bren, Vice-Chair  
Thomas W. Carr, Jr.  
Robert L. Freeman  
Leonard Marco  
Ronald Ogens  
Anita Powell

STAFF PRESENT:

Neil Shorb, Staff Director  
George Giebel, Program Manager  
Beth Feldman, Administrative Specialist  
Connie Robinson, MCFRS  
Richard H. Melnick, OCA

OTHERS PRESENT:

Chief Roger W. Strock, DFRS  
Chief David S. Dwyer, DVFRS  
Clark Beall, Vice President, Laytonville, VFD  
John Sparks, IAFF Local 1664  
A/C Randy Wheeler, DFRS  
Debby McMurray, Rockville VFD  
Chief Edward Sherburne, BCCRS  
Chief William A. Hinde, Rockville VFD  
Lisa D. Hinde, Rockville VFD  
A/C Phil Guercio, DFRS  
Frederick Welsh, DVFRS  
S. Darron Long, DVFRS  
Capt. Ed Radcliffe, DFRS  
District Chief Lisa Larson, Germantown VFD  
Marcine D. Goodloe, MCVFRA  
Matt Larson, Germantown VFD  
Minna Davidson, Council Staff  
DTC D. Steckel, DFRS

Kevin Sanzenbacher, OIA  
Chief James P. Seavey, Cabin John Park VFD  
Ronald Watkins, President, MCVFRA  
Maryann Leisher, Bethesda FD  
Alan Cohen  
John Rives, Wheaton RS  
D/C L. J. Gaddis, Bethesda Fire Dept  
Eric Bernard, President, RVFD  
Bruce Allen, President, TPVFD  
D/C Michael White, UMCVFD  
Steven Kurtz, GWGVFD  
Cheryl Reed, MCFRS  
Darlene Flynn, MCFRS  
Robert F. Kidd, President, Chevy Chase FD  
Eileen Queenin, DFRS  
Bud Henkel, President, GWGVFD  
Capt. Kenneth Kornblatt, DFRS  
DTC Mike McCarty, DFRS

**100 - CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the Fire and Rescue Commission was called to order by Chairman Aoyagi at 7:00 p.m. in the Lobby Auditorium of the Executive Office Building in Rockville, Maryland.

Commissioner Sterling was excused from this meeting.

**101-Comments-the Fire and Rescue Commissioners**

Commissioner Marco read a resolution on behalf of Commissioner Sterling which stated concerns and dissatisfaction with the Fire Administrator regarding a provision in a collective bargaining agreement that is contrary to or inconsistent with established Fire and Rescue Commission policy and the allowance of such undermines the authority of the FRC. Commissioner Marco distributed copies of the statement to the other commissioners and read the statement in its entirety.

**MOTION was made by Commissioner Marco to adopt this resolution. SECONDED by Commissioner Bren.**

Chair Aoyagi recognized Commissioner Marco's motion and recommended this item be moved to the business item section of tonight's agenda.

Vice-Chair Bren stated that the IAFF "has declared war" by designating volunteer fire and rescue personnel as "a rival organization." The Vice-Chair views the union's behavior as tearing apart not only the fire and rescue community, but also the Montgomery County community at large. Commissioner Bren inquired how the IAFF designation of fire and rescue volunteers as a "rival organization" reconciles with the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service as a "combination system." Commissioner Bren commended Chair Aoyagi's past efforts to bring together the various components of the fire and rescue community into a harmonious, collaborative and mutually supported relationship. But, he observed that the divisiveness within the service appears to be worsening and requested Chair Aoyagi to indicate what actions will be taken to deal with this situation.

Chair Aoyagi thanked Commissioner Bren for his comments and responded that the Fire Administrator and the County Executive are committed to ensure that the intent of the legislation to have a public-private partnership and a combination fire and rescue service are achieved and embraced by all parties. As Fire Administrator, his goal is to continue to work with the volunteer and union component of the MCFRS to meet the needs of the citizens. The Fire Administrator listed proposed capital projects, which have the support of both County Executive and County Council as their commitment to the MCFRS (3 additional stations in the upcoming CIP, rebuilding two stations, and the PS 2000 project.) There are many needs that have yet to be met, and they can not be met solely by either the career or volunteer component. He expressed the importance of a harmonious relationship between the two components as well as the role of the County and the FRC to ensure that the needs of citizens of Montgomery County are met. Fire Administrator did not believe he could speak on the Union's behalf with regard to statements that may or may not be on the Union website, or whether or not the union considers the volunteers as rivals. However, he expressed his concerns with union officials regarding the use of the term "rival organization." The Fire Administrator understood that the term "rival organization" is used in Resolution 43, which was adopted by the International union and applies to Prince Georges County, and not to any other local unions in the international union. The Fire Administrator urged all parties to continue to work together to improve communications and to ensure that we are in fact responsive to the needs of our citizens, who are not concerned with whether the responding fire and rescue personnel are career or volunteer.

The Fire Administrator further encouraged Commissioners and leaders of the MCFRS to commit to find ways to embrace the need for a harmonious relationship and the growth of both parties in order to meet the needs of the service. The Fire Administrator also recognized the efforts of Commissioner Bren to bring the two parties together, and stated that the lines of communications between the parties must remain open to provide effective working relationships.

Report of the Chairman

FRC Memo to County Executive and County Council re: MCFRS Proposed FY03 Budget

The Fire Administrator reported that the County Executive issued his operating budget at a press conference today, and provided the Commissioners and members of the audience with background information in a six page summary that was distributed. The Fire Administrator provided this information to show some of the other priorities designated by the County Executive in his efforts to reduce a budget gap, which has narrowed due to some increased measure of growth in the economy and the continuous efforts in FY02 to impose budget, procurement and personnel freezes.

Public schools represent 50 percent of funding allocated in the operating budget. Homeland security and public safety are mentioned as a priority of the County Executive, but the underlying theme of the operating budget this year is to maintain current services. Chair Aoyagi reported that comments from the Commission regarding the budget were considered by the County Executive before making final recommendations to the FY 03 budget. The Chair was very pleased to advise that the service reductions previously identified to meet the MARC were not included in the budget. However, apparatus or placement purchases will be deferred, and technology initiatives having to do with vehicle maintenance reporting system were excluded. The Chair stated that although the service did receive some budget cuts, overall the MCFRS maintains the present level of service. The recommended budget is now before the County Council for consideration, and the Council will approve and appropriate funds for the budget in May.

Fire/Rescue Occupational Medical Services (FROMS) Follow-up

As a follow-up to discussions during the last Commission meeting, the Chairman Aoyagi informed the Commission and the audience of the status concerning FROMS issues. Through the efforts of staff and Asst. Chief Carr, the backlog issues have been addressed by FROMS. The continuous monitoring and process improvements will be explored to ensure enhanced performance for FROMS regarding both career and volunteer personnel.

Audit of FY 01 Senator Amoss Fund

The Fire Administrator provided a summary of the auditor's findings regarding the Senator Amoss Grant Funds. The state requires the Chief Administrator Officer (CAO) to certify by audit that expenditures made in certain fiscal years are consistent with provisions and requirements of the Senator Amoss Fund. In order to receive certification, the CAO conducts annual audits of the activities in the fund to: 1) to assure the funds are property segregated; 2) that timely expenditures are made in accordance with the grant agreement, and 3) that there is appropriate documentation for each of those expenditures. Despite past efforts to help the LFRDs improve their Senator Amoss funds accounting and recordkeeping, the auditors found significant issues at many of the LFRDs. The Fire Administrator highlighted some examples of the auditor's findings. In addition, he cited concern regarding the maintenance of effort required to maintain future funding levels. Between the periods of 1986-1996, about \$100,000 was allocated, but has not yet been expended. Funds must be spent within two years of receipt, and the Fire Administrator will be working with the MCVFRA and the respective LFRDs to try to reallocate these funds for current needs.

Montgomery County Fair

The Chair recognized the concerns expressed by Commissioners and members of the MCFRS regarding the events at the 2001 Montgomery County fair. He met with union representatives and the Fire Board. He distributed a memorandum which reflects the understandings that have been agreed to by both parties with regard to the County Fair in 2002. The Chair believes that this will lead to a positive experience for our citizens with the fire service at the fair. MCFRS components will continue to meet and to coordinate their respective plans. The Office of Community Outreach will attempt to develop a brochure to explain the respective role of both career and volunteer personnel in the service, so that the citizens are aware that the MCFRS is a combined service.

#### Projected Work Program for FRC

The projected FRC Work Program was distributed with highlighted policy initiatives, including due dates to the FRC.

#### Homeland Security Advisory System

The Chair discussed a memo from the Office of Homeland Security, which encourages all jurisdictions to adopt an advisory system of "colors" regarding threat assessment. He informed the Commissioners this will detail a great deal of work over the next few months to ensure that the County is prepared for response to various terrorist threats that might occur.

#### Drought Situation in Central Maryland

The Chair noted that Governor Parris Glendening has declared a drought emergency in central Maryland, which include the Damascus area, and mandatory water restrictions are expected within the next several days. The Chair suggested that service follow the lead in conservation of water with voluntary water restrictions.

#### Valor Awards Luncheon, April 12, 2002

The Chair called attention to the luncheon and indicated that Chief Strock and Dwyer will cover this matter in more detail.

#### 102-Approval of Minutes of February 14, 2001

The Minutes were amended to reflect the following changes: Fernando Bren is Vice-Chair of the Commission, and in section 102, the correct Approval of Minutes date should be January 10, 2002.

**A MOTION was made by Commissioner Carr to approve the minutes of February 14, 2002 as amended. SECONDED by Commissioner Powell. PASSED unanimously.**

#### **200- CONSENT CALENDAR**

##### **201    *Request to Dispose of Engine- Takoma Park VFD***

**A MOTION was made by Commissioner Freeman to approve the Consent Calendar. SECONDED by Commissioner Carr. PASSED unanimously.**

**300- FIRE AND RESCUE COMMISSION COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**301- Operations Committee**

Commissioner Ogens reported that the last meeting of the Operations Committee took place on February 27, 2002 and three items were discussed. At the January 2002 Operations Committee, a memo was received from DFRS personnel at Station 2 regarding rescue equipment which had been placed on Truck 2. Further action on this matter was deferred until it could be determined if the TPVFD was in favor of the request to dispatch Truck 2 on personal injury collisions with persons trapped, and if such a request would be forthcoming. Chief Dwyer advised that he had spoken to Chief Jarboe of TPVFD who advised that Takoma Park was unaware that this memorandum was forwarded to the Operations Committee. Takoma Park is considering what request, if any, to make regarding this matter. Therefore, no further action was required.

The Aerial Unit Study had been placed before the Commission in December 2001, and action on this request was deferred until the Operations Committee further considered this report. The committee discussed 22 recommendations contained in the Aerial Unit Study, as well as a staff review of these recommendations from the Fire Administrator. The Operations Committee then concurred with certain recommendations, modified and amended other recommendations. This item is on the agenda tonight as item 401. There was a request to provide a briefing regarding the Implementation of the Water Supply Study Implementation Work Group at the next Operations Committee meeting.

**302- Human Resources, Safety and Training Committee**

Chair Powell reported on the items discussed at the March 4, 2002 HRST meeting.

The Command Officer Professional Development Improvement Program is item 402 on tonight's agenda. It was approved as amended by the committee, and is before the Commission for adoption. The Training Subcommittee staff reported on several items and will provide an update on the development of training course curriculum at a future meeting of the HRST. Commissioner Marco reported the driver training manual is being reviewed by staff.

Commissioner Carr reiterated to the LFRDs to make Theresa Hale or him aware of issues with FROMS. He also advised that the final design is underway for the new FROMS facility. The second annual Pikes Peak 10K Run will be held on April 28<sup>th</sup> and all members of MCFRS are invited to participate as runners or to help at the water stop.

**303- Finance, Technology, and Planning Committee**

Commissioner Bren reported that Asst. Chief Frank Kaleyias has been designated to replace Ken Fisher as the volunteer representative on the FTP Committee, and Eugene Roesser of the Cabin John Volunteer Fire Department will serve as the alternate member representing volunteers on the Committee. Commissioner Bren reported on behalf of the Technology Subcommittee that the PS 2000 project will separate the RMS from CAD, with RMS being delivered 6 months later. Commissioner Freeman reported that planning for new stations is back on track, and a review for the master plan is getting started. Capt. Mickel indicated that the Support Vehicle draft report is under final review.

**400- BUSINESS ITEMS**

**401- Aerial Unit Study**

Chief Guercio appeared before the FRC and described the methodology to compile the Aerial Unit Study Report. The first part of the study dealt with reviewing prior Aerial Unit studies done in 1985, 1993 and 1995. The second part of the study looked at response and incident volume. CAD data was used to determine actual response time for aerial units in given fire station areas and incident call loads. The committee was also charged to examine a number of specific issues, including the possible impact of the NIH fire department placing a quint in service; a request from Kensington VFD to remove staffing restrictions regarding Truck 5; and a request from the Silver Spring VFD to restore Truck 1. Chief Guercio reviewed findings and recommendations of the study.

Chief Guercio responded to questions from Chair Aoyagi, Vice Chair Bren, and Commissioners Freeman, Marco and Ogens regarding various recommendations made in the study.

There was discussion regarding the wording of the resolution which states “subject to applicable collective bargaining provisions.” Commissioner Ogens suggested adding the word “existing” before “applicable” to clarify the intent of the FRC with respect to collective bargaining.

**A MOTION was made by Commissioner Ogens to approve the recommendations of the Operations Committee as they apply to the Aerial Unit Study Report; and to adopt the attached resolution (401a) amended to add the word “existing” before the phrase “applicable collective bargaining provisions.” MOTION SECONDED by Commissioner Bren and PASSED with Commissioner Ogens, Bren, Freeman and Carr voting for the motion and Commissioner Marco voting against the motion. Commissioner Powell was not present for the vote.**

**402- Command Officer Professional Development/Improvement Policy**

George Giebel provided a summary of the Command Officer Professional Development/Improvement Policy (COPDI). In January 2001, the Fire Administrator requested that staff review the COPDI and draft an amendment to bring this document in compliance with current laws and regulations. The draft included PSTA staff Capt. Williamson’s recommendations. In February, 2002, the HRST Committee discussed the field comments received from Chief Strock and Chief Hinde. Several additional comments were discussed at the March, 2002, HRST Committee meeting. The HRST Committee recommended that the draft, as amended by the Committee, be forwarded to the Commission for approval.

Chair Aoyagi asked whether the recommendations from the committee were unanimous, and Mr. Giebel responded that they were. Commissioner Carr suggested that page 4, Section 4d should be clarified. This section is new, and indicates that command officers who do not complete their hours of required COPDI training in the current year will be required to make up hours at a 2 for 1 ratio. The purpose of this is to encourage people to meet the yearly requirement, rather than wait to make-up hours. At the beginning of the year, the COPDI Committee establishes the objectives for the year. The intent is that all command officers must have uniform training to participate in command functions. In addition, there is currently no penalty for command officers who do not complete the 12 hours of required training annually. Commissioner Carr suggested the following changes to 4b:

“A command officer who has not met the 12 hour requirement, or the pro-rated portion of the

requirement for a calendar year, will be ineligible for certification as a command officer in the next calendar year. Command officers who are de-certified will be required to make up two hours for every hour of mandatory COPDI hours that were not completed by the end of the previous calendar year. These make-up hours will be applied only to meet the requirement in the previous year, and must be completed before the individual is eligible for re-instatement in the IECS. Hours used to make up for a prior year will not be eligible for credit for the current or any other year.”

Mr. Giebel noted that this clarification should also appear on page 6, Section n. Commissioner Carr indicated that the issue was analyzed and the impact on both career and volunteer personnel is minimal. There is a small group that consistently lacks the required COPDI hours each year, which will hopefully be remedied by this new provision.

Commissioner Ogens drew the Commissioners attention to page 8, section 7a of the policy dealing with the Appeals. He suggested the following change: Delete the word “**individuals**” at the beginning, and add language to read “Any individual may appeal [any portion of] an action taken with respect to that individual, under this policy to the Fire and Rescue Commission, which may grant extensions or exceptions to an individual only for compelling reasons, on a case-by-case basis.”

Chair Aoyagi summarized the proposed revision of Section 4d on page 4, which would also apply on page 6, Section n., and the revision to Section. 7a, Appeals. The Chair requested a motion to approve the policy as amended.

**A MOTION was made by Commissioner Carr to adopt the Command Officer Professional Development/Improvement Policy as amended, and to adopt the resolution which is attachment 402a. MOTION SECONDED by Commissioner Ogens. Commissioner Powell was not available to vote. MOTION PASSED unanimously.**

403- Resolution introduced by Commissioner Marco

The Chair introduced business item 403, deferred from Commission comments. The Chair referred members to the Resolution previously distributed at the beginning of the meeting and read in its entirety by Commissioner Marco.

The Resolution proposed by Commissioner Sterling and introduced by Commissioner Marco stated the Commission’s strong objection to Montgomery County officials for entering into a labor agreement with IAFF Local 1664 which contains a provision that conflicts with FRC Policy No. 01-07, Standard Apparatus Identification Graphic Design for County-Owned Fire and Rescue Service Vehicles. The resolution recites the approval and comment process used to adopt the resolution; that the display of the IAFF logo is a violation of the policy; that the IAFF has approved a resolution discouraging its members from volunteering their time to local volunteer fire and rescue departments; and initiated a campaign to force its members to resign from volunteer service; and that the IAFF has declared volunteer departments rival organizations. The proposed resolution directs the Fire Administrator to advise the County Executive of the Commission’s dissatisfaction with any collective bargaining agreement that is made contrary to Commission policy; expresses concern about undermining the management rights and authority of the Commission and the County; and seeks to enjoin any collective bargaining agreement which compromises Commission regulations.

The Fire Administrator explained that the tentative agreement with the IAFF for FY03-06 included a provision which provides for the placement of a 4x4 inch decal with the union logo in a standard location to be specified by the County on County owned apparatus. Consideration was given to the Commission's standard graphic policy, but it was determined that settlement on this issue would lead to an agreement. The County Executive has approved the tentative agreement and it will be submitted to the County Council for approval. Montgomery County's collective bargaining law (Section 37-157) states that collective bargaining agreement supercedes any law, executive order, rule or policy adopted by the County, its departments or agencies which is inconsistent with the collective bargaining agreement. The issue being raised by the Resolution is whether or not collective bargaining conflicts with or undermines the authority of the Commission to adopt standard graphics policies. The collective bargaining agreement and Commission policies co-exist and are applicable. However, the Commission has long recognized in its resolutions adopting a Commission policy that the policy is "subject to applicable collective bargaining provisions."

**A MOTION was made by Commissioner Marco to have the Commission adopt the Resolution as presented. The MOTION was SECONDED by Commissioner Bren.**

Commission Ogens indicated that he understood the concerns and issues raised by Commissioner Sterling in the proposed resolution, but he did not believe that the Commission should involve itself in the issue of rival organizations. He believes that the Commission should focus on the how collective bargaining agreements affect policies and regulations adopted by the Commission. He stated that the Commission should be providing leadership, mediation and consensus building on those matters over which it has control. The issue of rival organizations and the position of the International Union was just introduced and the resolution requires the Commission to assume that what is presented is correct. The Commission is not involved in collective bargaining and should not be taking positions on internal union matters. He cautioned that the Commission should remain focused on MCFRS policies and their relationship to collective bargaining agreements.

Commissioner Bren indicated that he had spoken with Commissioner Sterling about his resolution, who had concerns with the Union's definition of rival organization and the provisions in the collective bargaining agreement that allows an IAFF decal on County-owned fire and rescue apparatus which appears to sanction the Union's position as well as the need to have the Commission represented in the collective bargaining process to protect its policies. He expressed concern that the collective bargaining agreement did not promote a combination system and appears to further strain the relationships between the union and volunteer members. Commissioner Bren wanted to know if the Fire Administrator, as the department head, as well as the Chair of the Commission, fulfilled his responsibilities to protect and advocate for the adopted policies of the Commission so that they are not eroded through bargaining.

Commissioner Carr expressed concern that he was not contacted by Commissioner Sterling about the resolution in advance of the meeting, as other Commissioners appeared to have been, and if so, he would have encouraged any resolution to be in the direction discussed previously by Commissioner Ogens. He reminded the Commission that for many years, and he believed it went back to date the County's collective bargaining law went into effect, the Commission has adopted its policies, and continues to do so, with a statement that the Commission's policies were subject to applicable collective bargaining agreements.

The Chair responded that as Fire Administrator, he was involved in the collective bargaining process. The policies of the Commission regarding the graphics policy were articulated and advanced through the discussions. Despite these positions, the issue of union decals on County owned vehicles was previously included in another collective bargaining agreement and was considered a matter for collective bargaining. In



the give and take of the bargaining process, the issue was resolved by the County specifying the size, location, and type of logo to be placed on County-owned vehicles as part of the total settlement agreement. He noted that the County Executive and the County Council are aware that collective bargaining agreements may be inconsistent with existing laws, regulations, policies, and the collective bargaining law provides provisions for the Council to revise its laws, as well as holding the collective bargaining agreement as prevailing over departmental policies. The Union and the County Executive have reached a tentative agreement on the collective bargaining contract, and it has been forwarded to County Council for its review and approval. He advised that it is not within the scope of the FRC to involve itself in the collective bargaining process, which is a matter reserved between the County Executive, as the employer, and IAFF Local 1664, as the bargaining unit representative of employees. The County Executive places high value on sound and effective labor-management relationships. Furthermore, the County Executive also supports a strong and viable volunteer component.

Commissioner Bren expressed concern over the extended process used by the Commission in developing and adopting its graphic policy. He stated that the Union presented the issue of its decal at various times in development of the policy. He was concerned that the Union could then go to the collective bargaining process to obtain what it was denied in the policy development process.

Commissioner Freeman stated that the Commission needs to move on, and proposed several changes to the resolution including:

- removal of the words “strong objection” in the first paragraph,
- removal of “conflict with” in the 3<sup>rd</sup> sentence,
- removal of the last three paragraphs beginning with “whereas”, and
- removal of “and dissatisfaction” from the second to last paragraph.

Discussion followed by several Commissioners regarding proposed changes to the Resolution.

Commissioners Carr and Ogens recommended that the Commission should not adopt the resolution, and its most appropriate action would be to discuss the collective bargaining process with the County Executive at its next quarterly meeting.

Members of the audience were then invited to speak on the proposed resolution.

President Sparks of IAFF Local 1664 expressed concern regarding the intent of the Commission regarding this Resolution. He stated that the Commission has no authority in the collective bargaining process. With regard to the “rival organization” issue, the IAFF Resolution in question applies only to Prince Georges County, MD, and not Montgomery County. Discussion followed with questions from Commissioner Bren and response by President Sparks regarding the issue of rival organizations. Commissioner Ogens intervened and stated that he did not believe that this issue is an appropriate matter to be brought before the Commission. The Chair agreed, and brought this discussion to a close.

Chief Seavey of the Cabin John Park VFD pointed out that Section 15 of the IAFF by-law; includes a provision that prohibits union members from serving as volunteer firefighters in jurisdictions with union firefighters. He stated that he was personally involved in a charge brought before the International Union.

Doc Wilson from the MCVFRA indicated that he believes it is a conflict for the Fire Administrator to serve as a representative for the County Executive in the collective bargaining process while also serving as the Chair of the Commission. He stated that the Fire Administrator commented 11 times on this issue, and as Chair he should be impartial. Mr. Wilson stated he would raise this issue with the County Council.

**MOTION made by Commissioner Bren to amend the resolution encompassing changes proposed by Commissioner Freeman. MOTION DIED due to lack of a second.**

A vote was taken on the motion on the floor to adopt the Resolution submitted by Commissioner Sterling.

**MOTION FAILED for lack of a majority, with Commissioners Bren, Marco, and Powell voting for the motion, and Commissioners Carr, Freeman, and Ogens voting against.**

### **FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES REPORTS**

#### **500-DVFRS Chief**

Chief Dwyer informed the Commission and the audience that Chief Strock will make further comments regarding the Montgomery County Fair. He also mentioned the passing of Pat Patterson's mother. The wake took place on March 15<sup>th</sup> and the funeral mass to be held at St. Sofia Greek Orthodox Church in Washington DC. The family requested that in lieu of flowers, donations should be sent to the Philoptochos Greek Orthodox in memory of Elizabeth Warnke.

Work continues on the LOSAP draft.

#### **501-DFRS Chief**

Chief Strock apologized for his tardy attendance. He was at the PSTA to welcome the Maryland Fire and Rescue Training Commission.

Chief Strock thank all who attended the volunteer graduation on the evening of March 1<sup>st</sup> at the PSTA. The date for the next graduation class will be announced shortly. Recruit class 21 is still in session.

Chief Strock announced a meeting has been established with the Frederick County border companies on March 18<sup>th</sup>. Volunteer, corporations, MCFRS personnel, and DVFRS from Frederick County assigned to those areas will attend this meeting. Chief Strock complemented DTC Lohr for his support in planning these meetings and will provide the commission with an update at the next Commission meeting. Chief Strock noted that the Chamber of Commerce Valor Awards will be held at the Indian Spring County Club on April 12<sup>th</sup> at noon and many MCFRS personnel will be recognized on that day. He encouraged everyone to attend. Chief Strock suggested that any questions regarding this event should be forwarded to Marcine Goodloe.

#### **502-Report of the Fire Board**

Marcine Goodloe stated that the Fire Board discussed the issue of the union negotiation at great length and addressed various concerns on this issue. The Fire Board also discussed the 2002 Montgomery County Fair, and was pleased with the conditions outlined to both parties. Ms. Goodloe stated to the Commission that in addition to the Montgomery County Fair regulations, the Fire Board will have regulations as well, and copies were submitted to Chiefs Strock and Dwyer

503-Report of the Montgomery County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association

President Watkins reported to the Commission on several projects involving legislative efforts in Annapolis. MCVFRA testified last Friday to the House Judiciary Committee in support of House Bill 1214. The MCVFRA believes that supporting this bill will benefit not only Montgomery County, but those small LFRDs throughout the state that have limited financial resources. The MCVFRA Website is still under construction and will be up shortly. It is the MCVFRA's hope that the website will provide more information to the general public on MCVFRA activities.

505- Report of the Montgomery County Career Fire/Rescue Officers Association  
No report

506- Report of the Montgomery County Career Firefighters Association

John Sparks stated that the IAFF had participated at several fund raising events. The event at the Rock Bottom raised \$5,000.00 for the Burn Foundation of Montgomery County, and the IAFF raised an additional \$7,000 playing the Washington Capitals Alumni Team for the Pentagon Relief Fund. Mr. Sparks thanked Fire Administrator Aoyagi for his attendance at the hockey game.

507- Report of the Montgomery County Community Fire/Rescue Chief Association

Chief Seavey stated that at its last meeting the Community Chiefs discussed issues dealing with Article 15 and will continue to work with Chief Dwyer on the Five-Year plan. He noted that the Fire Administrator appointed him, Fred Welsh, and Chief Stanton to work on the Charity Lane Fire Review Board. Chief Tom Jones was appointed to work with the Fire Act Committee for the upcoming grant season. In coordination with Chief Clemens, the next volunteer "Hell Night" will be held at the academy on April 6, 2002. The Community Chiefs Association held its election, and Chief Seavey is now the chair, with Chief Hinde as Vice-Chair.

Commissioner Freeman asked Chief Seavey if the Community Chiefs Association would participate in the preparation of grants and wanted to ensure that the Community Chiefs are receiving the proper information. Chief Seavey replied that Chief Jones is participating on that committee, and information is being forwarded to the LFRD chiefs.

Chair Aoyagi made a general statement to the Commission and the audience that despite the difficult discussions at tonight's meeting, we as a fire and rescue service must stay focused on providing service to the citizens. We must focus on issues that bring us together, and not on those that tear us apart.

**A MOTION was made by Commissioner Carr to adjourn. SECONDED by Commissioner, Ogens. PASSED unanimously**

Meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

FRC Meeting  
March 14, 2002

Respectfully Submitted,

Gordon A. Aoyagi  
Chairman